Prayer to Begin a School Year

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.
Dear Parents, Caregivers and Children,

GOOD TODAY, BETTER TOMORROW!

Welcome to the 2017 school year here at St Michael's Primary!

Our motto this year is Good Today, Better Tomorrow! Many years ago a very kind and gentle woman called Catherine MacAuley inspired many young women in Ireland to work together to support and help those in need. She founded the Mercy sisters and led them in this wonderful work. One of the many wise things she said was:

‘The simplest and most practical lesson I know is to be good today but better tomorrow’

At St Michael’s we have adopted this as our motto to inspire us in our learning and in the way we work and play with each other. We will challenge each other to work hard to improve ourselves and discover how we can be better tomorrow. I encourage you to talk with your children about this motto and maybe as a family you can set some goals for how you may be better tomorrow.

This year we welcome our Prep children. They have all settled in well and are showing us what wonderful learners they are. Congratulations to their parents for preparing them so well for school.

We also welcome the following children and their families into our St Michael’s community. The children have come from other countries, states and schools. We look forward to learning with them and from them.

Archilles Quiapo Grade 1/2A
Sunny Rocca-McMahon Grade 1/2A
Bethany Ling Grade 1/2A
Amari Fugaban Grade 5/6H
Daniel Nam Grade 5/6H
Hussain Haider Grade 5/6 J
Miguel Rodrigues Grade 5/6J
David Ji Grade 5/6H
Tudor Labadin Grade 5/6H
Ahok Malual Grade 3/4C
Rumbrek Malual Grade 5/6 J

Respectful Responsible Learner Safe
Basketball Court

The biggest change to our school has been the construction of our basketball court. What an amazing difference it has made. I have loved hearing the comments from children, parents and ex-students about how much they are impressed:

“It’s amazing”, “It makes the school yard look so big”, “Can we run now?”, “I just love it!”

It’s even wonderful watching children stay a little longer after school with their parents having a play on the new space.

The children have really enjoyed using this space for both play and Physical Education classes. The work is almost finished, with just the netball rings to be installed and the garden beds to be planted. The school has taken out a loan to cover the cost of the refurbishment, your payment of school fees and the capital improvement fee will assist us in repaying this loan and in saving to complete the next phase of the playground renewal.

The area next the office should be completed in the next few weeks, we will be constructing a rubbish bin refuse area therefore taking the storage of bins out of the playground, again giving our children more space to play.

Learning

Our Prep, Year 1/2 children have already had an incursion where they spent time learning about baby animals as part of their Living Things” Inquiry Unit. Our Year 3/4 children are having a Mad About Science incursion next week for their “Chemical Change” Unit and Year 5/6 children went to the VSSEC as a catalyst for their “Space The Final Frontier” unit. What wonderful immersion activities our children have engaged in to stimulate their wonderings and creativity for their learning. I am looking forward to seeing where they take their learning and what they will discover.

School Uniform

Thank you to all the families who have sent their children to school in the correct uniform. Please remember that unless it is their sports day children should be wearing their black school shoes and correct summer uniform. As we are in Summer there is no need for the girls to wear leggings under their dresses nor should the boys be in long pants. Wearing our uniform correctly shows the community we are very proud to be members of St Michael’s Primary North Melbourne.

Respectful    Responsible    Learner    Safe
Parent Involvement

Parents are more than welcome to be involved in our community and we offer a variety of ways for you to do so.

- School Advisory Board
- Parents & Friends Group
- Parent Helpers in classrooms
- Parent Helpers in the library
- Parent Helpers in the Tuckshop
- Parent Helpers on Excursion

At St Michael’s our Child Safety Policy asks that all parent helpers have a Working With Children’s Check and sign our St Michael’s Code of Conduct. This is all to ensure we are taking every possible measure to ensure your child’s safety.

If you wish to be a helper in any of these areas or would like any further information please see your child’s teacher, Kylie or myself. We know that being a part of your child’s education in an active way contributes greatly to your child’s success and happiness at school.

Our first School Advisory Board Meeting is on Tuesday March 14th at 6.30pm. I encourage you to come along and join us in working together to improve our school.

We will advise you of our first P&F meeting shortly.

Dropping Off & Picking Up Children

Please note that we can only supervise children from 8.30am in the morning. Children who are at school prior to this time must go to the Before school program. It is not permissible for children to wait outside the school prior to 8.30am by themselves. For your child’s safety I ask you to ensure your child arrives at school from 8.30am or is enrolled in the Before School Program.

It is similar for after school. We are only able to supervise children until 3.45pm. If you are running late we ask that you contact the office so we can ensure your child’s safety. Children who are not picked up by 3.45pm will be sent to the After School Program.

I also ask that if you have changed phone numbers or your emergency contact details that you let Kylie in the office know as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events

Please save the following dates in your calendar:

- Parent Teacher Chats   Wednesday 22nd February 1.30pm-7.30pm
- Whole School Family Welcome BBQ     Tuesday 28th February 5.30pm

Again welcome back and thank you all for the energising, enthusiastic and wonderful start to 2017. It is going to be a great year!

Good Today Better Tomorrow!

Cheers

Denise Hussey
Principal

Respectful  Responsible  Learner  Safe
The Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC)

On Tuesday 5/6J and 5/6H went to the Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC). We learn about Mars. Our class split into 2 teams for a mission to Mars. While the other class (5/6H) class was doing “Tickle my Droid”. Tickle my Droid is when each person got an iPad and controlled a robot. In Mission to Mars Grade 5/6J split into 2 teams 1 team was mission control and the 2nd team were scientists. Then when the 2 teams were done we swapped over. After that 5/6J and 5/6H swapped over. My favourite part was when we were with Tickle my Droid. It was my favourite part because we controlled a robot with the I Pad. We told the robot what to do in robot language, so if the robot did anything wrong it was your fault. The robot listens to exactly what you say. It so surprising. The day was so fun! I hope we get to go there again.

By Helina Kebede. 5/6J

On Tuesday we went on an excursion to VSSEC to learn about Earth and Mars. Our class was split into groups. 5/6J went to Mars in the scientist research lab. We learnt that Mars has water and sand on it. After we went to Mars we went to the another activity where we could control robots with an I Pad.

By Robel Kebede—5/6J

On Monday 5/6J and 5/6H went to VSSEC on a bus. We had 2 activities to do both were fun. One was Mission to Mars and the other was called tickle my drone. With Tickle My Drone we had to program these little ball shaped robots through this obstacle course with iPads. We used an App called lighting Lab to program the robots. We also did an activity called Mission to Mars. With Mission to Mars it had 2 parts, Mission Control were we had to sit down at computers and communicate with people on Mars and ask questions related to our jobs at the control centre. We had to solve problems about space and at the end we had a huge problem to solve and we got scared. Over all I give VSSEC a 9/10.

Matilda 5/6J
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Respectful    Responsible    Learner    Safe
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<td>8 School Banking Assembly</td>
<td>9 AFL Vic Prep—2 Program First Reconciliation—2:30pm</td>
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<td>14 North Melbourne Football Club Clinic Year 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>15 Open Day</td>
<td>16 AFL Vic Prep—2 Program</td>
<td>17 Anti-bullying Day</td>
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<td>21 Nth Melb Football Clinic Year 5 &amp; 6 Cyber Safety Evening—6:30pm</td>
<td>22 Grade 5/6 Camp</td>
<td>23 AFL Vic Prep—2 Program</td>
<td>24 Grade 5/6 return from camp</td>
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<td>28 North Melbourne Football Club Clinic Year 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>29 Grade 5/6 J Assembly</td>
<td>30 AFL Vic Prep—2 Program</td>
<td>31 Term 1 Concludes</td>
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Respectful    Responsible    Learner    Safe
Birthdays …

We are wishing Gloria, Ajier, Eric, Aiden, Eyosiyos, Dhruvika, Ilker, Elshaddie, Nyidier, Levi, Meixin, Kiziah, Elizabeth, Geordie, Mikayla Daniel, Marcus, Aziku and Lucy a very special day as they celebrate their birthdays with family and friends.

Enjoy all the fun! Happy Birthday!

Homework Club

The program begins at 3:30pm - 5:00pm and runs on Mondays during the school term. It is free and offers 1:1 volunteer tutor support in literacy and numeracy, and is a fun and interactive program designed to help students with their learning. It is for students in grades 5 and 6 and is held at the North Melbourne Community Centre, 49 Buncle Street, North Melbourne.

For further information, parents should contact Lee Kenny at: lee.kenny@hothammission.org.au or call the office on 9326 8245.

Second Hand Uniform

If you have any uniform that your child does not fit into any more, our second hand uniform shop is accepting donations. Our uniform shop offers items from $2.00 and is a great way to recycle and pick up extra items of uniform you may need. Thank-you

School hours are:

8.30am (Gates open) supervision in the yard—9am School day begins

3.30pm—3.45pm supervision in the yard.

All children who arrive earlier than 8:30am will be sent to before are and children who have not been collected at 3:45pm will be sent to aftercare (Fees apply).